CLAIMS

Having thus described the invention, it is now claimed:

1. A method for continuously updating a printer driver associated with a printer configuration, the steps comprising:

retrieving current printer configuration from a registry on a controller;

accessing an external file containing at least one offset representative of a respective at least one printer attribute;

querying the at least one offset representative of the respective at least one printer attribute; and

updating a data structure containing information about initialization and environment of a printer.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of initializing the controller.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of copying the external file containing at least one offset representative of a respective at least one printer attribute to the controller.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the external file is an extensible markup language file.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of packaging the external file on a portable storage medium.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the portable storage medium is packaged during a client build.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the portable storage medium is packaged during a controller build.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the updating a data structure step further comprises updating a private DEVMODE.

9. A system for automatically updating a printer driver associated with a printer configuration, comprising:

means adapted for retrieving current printer configuration from a registry on a controller;

means adapted for accessing an external file containing at least one offset representative of a respective at least one printer attribute;

means adapted for querying the at least one offset representative of the respective at least one printer attribute; and

means adapted for updating a data structure containing information about initialization and environment of a printer.

10. The system of claim 9, further comprising means adapted for initializing the controller.

11. The system of claim 9, further comprising means adapted for copying the external file containing at least one offset representative of a respective at least one printer attribute to the controller.

12. The system of claim 9, wherein the external file is an extensible markup language file.

13. The system of claim 9, further comprising means adapted for packaging the external file on a portable storage medium.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the portable storage medium is packaged during a client build.

15. The system of claim 13, wherein the portable storage medium is packaged during a controller build.

16. The system of claim 9, wherein the means adapted for updating a data structure further comprises means adapted for updating a private DEVMODE.

17. A method for automatically updating a printer driver associated with a printer configuration, the steps comprising:

initiating a first computer program;

retrieving printer data for a current printer configuration from a registry;

monitoring the current printer configuration for an attribute change; and

activating a second computer program in response to the attribute change.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the first computer program resides on a controller communicatively coupled to a printer.

19. The method of claim 17, the first computer program step further comprising:

monitoring at least one registry key for attribute changes; and

notifying a caller of a change to the attribute of the at least one registry key.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of resetting the at least one registry key to a non-signaled state.

21. The method of claim 17, the second computer program step further comprising:

retrieving a current printer configuration by a communications protocol;

writing the current printer configuration to at least one registry key; and

updating the printer driver associated with the at least one registry key.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the communications protocol is simple network management protocol.

23. The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of delaying the simple network management protocol.

24. The method of claim 17, wherein the second computer program resides on a controller.

25. A system for automatically updating a printer driver associated with a printer configuration in real time, comprising:

a first computer program, including:

means adapted for retrieving printer data for a current printer configuration from a registry, and

means adapted for monitoring the current printer configuration for an attribute change; and

a second computer program, wherein the second computer program is activated by the first computer program in response to the attribute change.

26. The system of claim 25, wherein the first computer program resides on a controller communicatively coupled to a printer.

27. The system of claim 25, the first computer program further comprising:

means adapted for monitoring at least one registry key for attribute changes; and

means adapted for notifying a caller of a change to the attribute of the at least one registry key.

28. The system of claim 27, further comprising means adapted for resetting the at least one registry key to a non-signaled state.

29. The system of claim 25, the second computer program further comprising:

means adapted for retrieving a current printer configuration by a communications protocol;

means adapted for writing the current printer configuration to at least one registry key; and

means adapted for updating the printer driver associated with the at least one registry key.

30. The system of claim 29, wherein the communications protocol is a simple network management protocol.

31. The system of claim 30, the first computer program further comprising means adapted for delaying the simple network management protocol.